

joyce estate

CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST

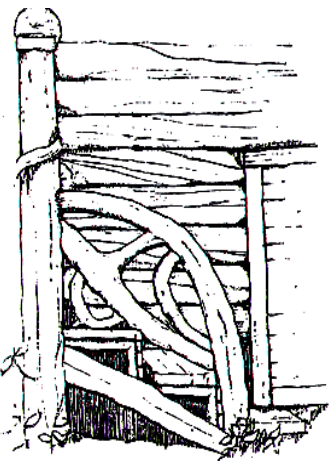


Welcome

As you stroll through the grounds of the Joyce Estate or “Nopeming” (place of rest in Ojibwe) as it was called, imagine the roaring twenties, the time of prohibition and women’s suffrage. Imagine how unusual it was in its day, an isolated 4,500 acre resort with forty buildings including its own golf course, private telephone line and airplane hanger.

You can still enjoy the features of the unique Adirondack style architecture in the tea house or follow the numbered posts with this guide to experience the expanse of the estate.

Heir to the Joyce Family fortune originating in part from lumber taken from northern Minnesota via the Itasca Lumber Company, David Joyce of Chicago built the estate from 1917-1935. Logging in Itasca County peaked about 1910. Due to excellent railway connections from Minneapolis and Chicago, and its scenic beauty, the Grand Rapids area became nationally known as a major resort area. The Joyce Family used it until 1972. Through its heritage and interpretive programs the US Forest Service manages this site which is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.



Main Lodge Complex

A Main Lodge and two log sleeping cabins – the Joyce Cabin and the Guest Cabin – were the first structures built on the Estate, other structures soon followed. The wooded peninsula on the west side of Trout Lake would form the social gathering area for the Joyce family and their guests. The rustic log architecture and stick

work is characteristic of the Adirondack tradition which used native materials, such as logs and stone, to harmonize with the natural landscape.



Cabins on the Hill

The “Cabins on the Hill” were constructed primarily for the Joyce’s daughter B. C., the butler, maid, and seaplane pilot. Guests were invited to use these facilities including the Peterson cabin and the Mary Louise cabin, named for these frequent visitors from Chicago. The Observatory was a magnificent structure crafted in the traditional Adirondack Style.

Garden/ Greenhouse

The Greenhouse (ca 1925) was established to grow a wide variety of flowering plants planted throughout the estate. Coupled with a vast vegetable garden and white spruce plantation this era provided many of the necessities as well as the luxuries of the Joyce Estate.

Caretakers Area

With over 40 buildings and thousands of acres of land to maintain, it is not surprising how many people the Joyces employed. The Caretakers Area consisted of seventeen buildings including employee sleeping quarters; utility, boat, seaplane, and automobile storage areas, and the Power House. At least one caretaker lived on site year round until 1986.

Recreation Area

Many people dream of having a volleyball court right in their own back yard, others wonder what it would be like to have a tennis court for their own use. Would they go as far as to include nine-hole pitch and putt golf course? That is how far David and Beatrice Joyce went! The Recreation Area included each of these features with all of the trimmings including a golf clubhouse and storage facilities. And for those who prefer the more rugged forms of recreation, a trap house for skeet was constructed as well.

